



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

**Physical Location: CVRPC Offices,
29 Main Street, Montpelier**

(Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required for in-person participation)

Join Zoom Meeting via Computer, Tablet or Smartphone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981081424?pwd=VUo2UytSSWNnRkt4VUhqdmF1QXhTQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 8108 1424 - **Passcode:** 679190

Dial in via Phone: +1 929 436 2866

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981081424?pwd=VUo2UytSSWNnRkt4VUhqdmF1QXhTQT09>

Download Zoom here: <https://zoom.us/download>

Agenda

- 6:30 1) Meeting Commencement
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Adjustments to the Agenda
 - c) Public Comment
- 6:35 2) Approval of July TAC Meeting Minutes (*Enclosed, Action*)
- 3) Regional Updates
- 6:40 a) Waterbury Main Street – Presentation Steve Lotspeich
- 7:10 b) VPSP2 – Update and responses to questions (*Enclosed*)
- 7:20 c) Better Roads Grant (formerly Better Backroads) (*Enclosed*)
- 4) TAC Member Round Table
- 7:30 a) Local concerns including project updates and other issues
- 7:45 5) Adjourn

Next Meeting November 23, 2021

Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or chartrand@cvregion.com at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Minutes
September 28, 2021

Attendees:						
	Barre City	Vacant		X	Moretown	Joyce Manchester
X	Barre Town	Stephanie Magnan				Dara Torre, Alt
		Sebastian Arduengo, Alt			Northfield	Jeff Schulz
	Berlin	Robert Wernecke		X	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
	Cabot	John Cookson		X	Plainfield	Bob Atchinson
X	Calais	David Ellenbogen		X	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
		Karin McNeill, Alt		X	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
X	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush				Harrison Snapp, Alt
X	E. Montpelier	Frank Pratt			Warren	Camilla Behn
	Fayston	Donald Simonini			Washington	Peter Carbee
	Marshfield	Robin Schunk		X	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
X	Middlesex	Ronald Krauth		X	Williamstown	Richard Turner
X	Montpelier	Dona Bate			Woodbury	Chris Koteas
		Harold Garabedian, Alt		X	Worcester	Bill Arrand
	Staff:	Christian Meyer				
	Guests:	Alice Peal, Chris Damiani (GMTA)				

Chair Steve Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present

Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda

Public Comments

Alice Peal spoke about her experience in Waitsfield trying to improve pedestrian safety along Main Street (Route 100) following a recent fatal crash. She is concerned with the speed at which AOT has addressed community concerns, stating that it is taking too long.

Review of Draft July Meeting Minutes

Frank Pratt made a motion, seconded by Ronald Krauth, *to accept the minutes from July 27, 2021*. The motion was unanimously adopted with David Ellenbogen abstaining.

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Amendments to FFY21 TPI Work Program Budget

Staff briefed the group on the minor changes that were made to FFY21 budget tables following their review and approval at the July TAC meeting, how the budget was being adjusted to meet planning needs, and why the group was reviewing these numbers again. Bob Atchinson made the motion, seconded by Richard Turner, *to approve the proposed adjustments to the FFY21 work program and budget*. Motion passes unanimously.

VPSP2 Selected Projects

Staff presented the VTrans list of selected projects for programming. The committee discussed the list wondering exactly where the 150% of expected programming decision came from given the potential for a federal infrastructure bill that may push the number far higher. The committee was also interested to know what role the TV would play now that project development is underway. The Committee requested the initial VPSP2 selection tables be distributed to the Committee again for reference. David Ellenbogen requested that the description be modified for the regional priority at the intersection of Route 100 and Route 17 to include the safety of cyclists. Allice Peal voice her emphatic support for this improved description and added that friends of the Mad River had also identified this location as being important to storm water run-off.

Joyce Manchester wondered about the potential for labor and materials shortages if all the expected funding comes to fruition. Adding that it would be great to have a representative from VTrans join the group to discuss this and how towns should think about addressing potential shortages.

Steve Lotspeich asked about the coming year’s prioritization process and when should towns start thinking about regional priorities. Staff responded that in the next round of prioritizations the TAC will be considering bridges and that if towns have priorities, they can start talking to the region now about those projects.

VTrans Road Usage Charge Study - Survey

The Committee discussed the active Road Usage Charge Study survey. Comments included that it asked about usage charges but failed to ask about increasing the tax fuel tax for internal combustion engines and how it would address the wear and tear caused by out of state visitors. Discussion ensued.

Transportation Alternatives (TA) set-aside program

Staff discussed the launch current solicitation for project for the TA set aside program. Towns are encouraged to contact the Region for additional resources and application support. Committee members requested a one pager on the program for distribute to their local partners.

Local Concerns Including Project Updates and Other Issues

1 Waterbury had the official ribbon cutting for their Main Street project. Additionally, VTrans is
2 wrapping up scoping on the reconstruction of the bridge on Stowe Street at the intersection of
3 100.

4
5 Plainfield ran into some challenges with the pedestrian bridge on Main Street. However, the
6 project is going forward.

7
8 East Montpelier got the 35 MPH zone extended to Towne Hill Road. This was a 4 to 5-year
9 process.

10

11 **Topics for future meetings**

12 GMT MyRide, labor and materials with increased federal assistance

13

14 **Adjourn**

15 Don La Haye made the motion, seconded Bob Atchinson, *to adjourn*. The motion carried.

16

17 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM.

DRAFT



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 26, 2021
To: Transportation Advisory Committee
From: Christian Meyer, Senior Planner
Re: VPSP2 Questions and Answers

☒ **ACTION REQUESTED:** No action required

At the September meeting, a number of questions were raised regarding the VTrans project selection process and the following project development process. I had a chance to follow up and track down some answers, the following is a review of the question and responses.

Where exactly did the 150% of average allocation come from? Does this take into account a new federal transportation bill?

Response: The list was developed based on 150% as a starting point with no expectation that VTrans would be able to advance this volume of project. However, because additional funding is now expected, the full list of up to 150% was included for further development. Once specifics on the transportation bill are available, VTrans may program additional projects.

What role will the TV score have in the project development process? Will it impact which projects are advanced first?

Response: The next step for Traffic & Safety and Roadway projects is what VTrans is calling scope refinement phase and that is the point when the projects will be more fully defined and schedule and next steps will be determined. For this step a VTrans project manager will be assigned and they will work with the RPCs to more fully understand and define the scope of work.

The expectation is that projects with a higher transportation value will advance first, but there will be considerations of project size and complexity that might also affect the schedule. Some smaller and easier projects could move more quickly.

Does the High-Risk Road program still exist?

Response: This program no longer exists but VTrans continues to dedicate federal safety funds for roadway improvements. One example of how these funds can be accessed is by requesting an road safety audit through the RPC.

Vermont Better Roads Program



Installation of a Better Roads grant project in Chester, VT

If you have questions,
would like more
information or to request
technical assistance, please
contact:

Alan May
(eastern Vermont)
802-828-4585

or

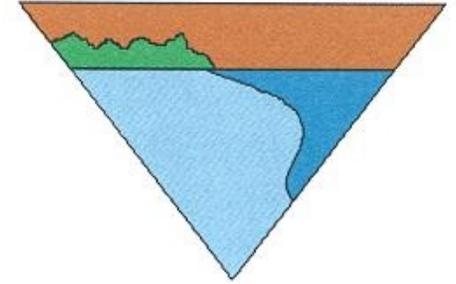
Linda Blasch
(western Vermont)
802-498-7216

BetterRoads@vermont.gov
Vermont Agency of
Transportation,
Municipal Assistance
Bureau

1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633-5001
[http://vtrans.vermont.gov/
highway/better-roads](http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads)

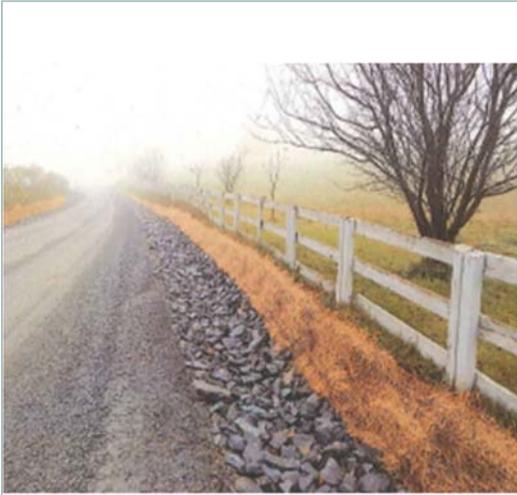


Better Roads
Clean Water You Can Afford



*A grant program for
municipalities that
provides funds for
planning and erosion
control projects that
improve water quality
and reduce
maintenance costs.*





Vermont Better Roads Program

The Vermont Better Roads Program (formerly known as the Better Backroads Program) started in 1997 to provide towns with funding and technical assistance to implement cost-effective techniques that reduce erosion on town roads while enhancing water quality. Grant funds are provided by the Agency of Transportation in partnership with the Agency of Natural Resources. There are four categories of grants: A, B, C and D.



CATEGORY A GRANTS

Category A grants are for planning and provide funding to conduct a road erosion inventory, development of an implementation table and identification of priorities for work in compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit.

Maximum grant award: \$8,000

Required local match: 20%



CATEGORY B GRANTS

Category B grants are for construction projects that correct an erosion problem and/or installation of stormwater infrastructure that will result in improved water quality. Examples of eligible projects in this category are the installation of grass or stone lined ditches, small culverts (< 36"), rain gardens that treat road runoff, and catch basins or drop inlets.

Maximum grant award: \$20,000

Required local match: 20%



CATEGORY C GRANTS

Category C grants are for construction projects that correct a streambank, lake shore or other slope related erosion problems on town roads.

Maximum grant award: \$40,000

Required local match: 20%



CATEGORY D GRANTS

Category D grants are for structure and/or culvert upgrade projects. Eligible projects must include installation of a culvert at least 36" in diameter or greater.

Maximum grant award: \$60,000

Required local match: 20%